GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3618
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
MANUFACTURING OF DEFECTIVE SHELLS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shells filled by Chanda Ordnance factory sustained a loss of 6.06 crores due to defective manufacture of shells;

(b) whether many shells persisted in failing to fire;

(c) whether the Government are aware of security dangers thus posed to national security; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent recurrence and to punish those guilty?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): 105 mm Indian Field Gun High Explosive Squash Head Shells, worth Rs. 6.06 Crores, manufactured at the Ordnance Factory Chanda, were found unserviceable during plate proof. The composite Task Force, consisting of representatives from Defence Research and Development Organisation, Directorate General Quality Assurance and Ordnance Factory Board, constituted to investigate the reasons for failure recommended that the target plate be fixed on a frame which should be grouted to the ground, to ensure that the target plate does not move due to impact of the shell. Subsequent plate proof of the rejected ammunition with fixed target plate gave satisfactory results.

(c) As the targets fixed by the Army were fully met and no defects were found in the shells supplied to the army, there was no danger posed to the national security.

(d) Does not arise.